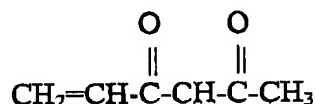


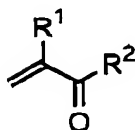
REMARKS

Applicants hereby affirm the election of Group I, claim 1-54 and a monomer of Formula I, N, N'-(bisacryloyl)cystamine (CYST). Claims 25-72 have been withdrawn by Examiner.

Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 4-9 and 14-17 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 05-269,181, ("JP 181") stating that "JP 05-369,181 expressly discloses an antimicrobial soft contact lens comprising 69.7 w% 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate, 24.6 w% methyl methacrylate, 0.4 w% ethylene glycol dimethacrylate and 5 w% silver acrylacetate or 5 w% benzoyl acetate." Acryl acetate has the following structure:



Formula I as recited in claim 1 of the present application is



However, 2-propanone is not included in the markush group for R² or R² and R³ taken together. Similarly, for Formula II, 2-propanone is not included in the markush group for R¹². Accordingly, claim 1, 2, 4-9 and 14-17 as originally are novel are novel over JP '181.

Examiner has also rejected claims 1-17 under 35 U.S.C. 103 as unpatentable over JP '181 in view of US 5,998,498 (Vanderlaan) and (US 3,929,741 (Laskey).

Vanderlaan discloses soft contact lenses formed from silicone hydrogels. The use of any antimicrobial agents, let alone those of the present invention is not disclosed.

Laskey discloses polymer compositions comprising a hydrophilic polymer obtained by polymerization of an acrylamido alkyl sulfonic acid monomer which have the ability to ingurgitate water "in extremely high quantities, even up to 400 times the

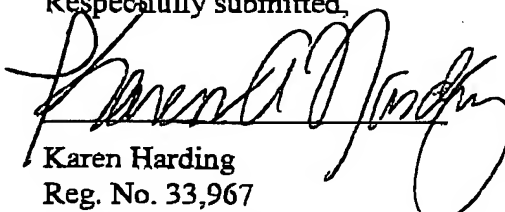
weight of the polymer." See column 1, lines 31 through 36. Laskey is also silent with respect to the incorporation of antimicrobial agents of any kind.

As discussed above, JP '181 does not disclose or suggest incorporating the presently recited monomers in to a contact lens. Accordingly, there is nothing in the references, taken alone or in combination, which would suggest that the monomers of Formula I or II could be incorporated into a contact lens.

Applicants respectfully submit that the foregoing remarks traverse the Examiner's rejections with respect to claims 1-17. Applicants note with appreciation Examiner's indication that claims 18-24 contain patentable subject matter. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute the claims encompassed by any of the non-elected groups in future divisional applications.

The examination of these claims and passage to allowance are respectfully requested. An early Notice of Allowance is therefore earnestly solicited. Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned at (904) 443-3074 to clarify any unresolved issues raised by this response.

Respectfully submitted,



Karen Harding
Reg. No. 33,967
Attorney for Applicants

Johnson & Johnson
One Johnson & Johnson Plaza
New Brunswick, NJ 08933-7003
(904) 443-3074